(b) to (e) The Government of India approved the Common Service Centers (CSC) Scheme on September 26, 2006 for establishment of more than one lakh broadband and Internet enabled CSCs across rural India on a Public-Private Partnership model. The CSCs are envisioned as the front-end delivery points for Government, private and social sector services to rural citizens of India.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a Model Law in consultation with the State Governments on agricultural marketing to promote direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector. This Model Act has been circulated to all the States/UTs to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act) suitably, wherever required, as suggested in the Model Act.

Rural housing in the country

2555. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India faces a huge task for rural housing in the country, especially for people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to bridge this gap in rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per Registrar General of India's estimate of rural housing shortage based on Census 2001, there is a shortage of 148.33 lakh houses in rural areas throughout the country as per State-wise figures given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Within the overall financial resources available, the Government is allocating funds under IAY every year for providing financial assistance to the rural BPL households for construction of their dwelling units. Under 'Bharat Nirman' Programme, 60 lakh houses are envisaged to be constructed during a period of four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Statement

State-wise housing shortage in rural areas as per census of 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Housing shortage in rural areas
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1350282
2	Arunachal Pradesh	105728
3	Assam	2241230
4	Bihar	4210293
5	Chandigarh	1232
6	Chhattisgarh	115528
7	Delhi	7200
8	Goa	6422
9	Gujarat	674354
10	Haryana	55572
11	Himachal Pradesh	15928
12	Jammu and Kashmir	92923
13	Jharkhand	105867
14	Karnataka	436638
15	Kerala	261347
16	Madhya Pradesh	207744
17	Maharashtra	612441
18	Manipur	69062
19	Meghalaya	148657
20	Mizoram	30250
21	Nagaland	97157
22	Orissa	655617
23	Punjab	75374

1	2	3
24	Rajasthan	258634
25	Sikkim	11944
26	Tamil Nadu	431010
27	Tripura	174835
28	Uttar Pradesh	1324028
29	Uttaranchal	53521
30	West Bengal	974479
31	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17890
32	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1926
33	Daman and Diu	787
34	Lakshadweep	190
35	Pondicherry	7778
	TOTAL	14833868

Funds allotted under Bharat Nirman

2556. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed to connect all villages that have a population of 1000 or 500 in hilly/tribal areas with a road;

(b) whether Government had proposed a sum of approximately Rs. 48,000 crore to achieve the goals; and

(c) how much fund have been allotted in the first two years of Bharat Nirman, for the creation of rural roads against the proposed Rs. 48,000 crore by 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Funds allocated under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as under:-